

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 DAMASC 04514 131359Z

43

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 ISO-00 PA-01 EB-07 COME-00

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 /044 W  
----- 122177

R 131306Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5230

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

AMCONSUL HAMBURG

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE DAMASCUS 4514

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP (BLANTON, RAY)

SUBJECT: VISIT OF GOVERNOR BLANTON OF TENNESSEE

REF: ATHENS 8394

1. GOVERNOR BLANTON OF TENNESSEE AND GROUP OF STATE OFFICIALS FLEW INTO DAMASCUS IN LEAR JET NOV. 10 FOR TWO-DAY PRIVATE VISIT TO SYRIA. VISIT WAS ARRANGED BY LEBANESE BUSINESSMAN IBRAHIM HIBLEH, RELATIVE OF FONMIN'S CHIEF OF PROTOCOL NAHLAWI WHO PRESIDED OVER RED-CARPET SYRIAN WELCOME. EMBASSY NOT INVOLVED IN ARRANGEMENTS OR PROGRAM WITH EXCEPTION OF CHARGE'S ATTENDANCE AT DINNER GIVEN BY ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER IN BLANTON'S HONOR NOV. 11.

2. SO FAR AS WE CAN DETERMINE, VISIT WAS LARGELY PEOPLE-TO-PEOPLE EFFORT WITH NO IMMEDIATE BUSINESS PROMOTION, THOUGH FOLLOW-ON CONTACTS BY TENNESSEE BUSINESSMEN ARE PLANNED.

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3. ON NOV. 11 GROUP FLEW TO EUPHRATES DAM AND

SPENT MOST OF DAY THERE. ON 12TH THEY MET IN  
LATE MORNING WITH DEPUTY PRIMIN FOR ECONOMIC  
AFFAIRS HAYDAR, LUNCED AT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,  
AND WERE RECEIVED BY PRESIDENT ASAD PRIOR TO  
AFTERNOON DEPARTURE FOR GERMANY. WE WERE UNABLE  
TO CONTACT GROUP FOLLOWING THESE MEETINGS AND  
WOULD BE INTERESTED, SHOULD CONSULS IN FRANKFURT  
OR HAMBURG HAVE CONTACT WITH THEM, IN HAVING  
THEIR IMPRESSIONS.

4. VISIT WAS SUCCESSFUL, PARTICULARLY FROM POINT  
OF VIEW OF SYRIAN WELCOME. MEETING WITH ASAD WAS  
A SYRIAN INITIATIVE AS WELL AS FRONT PAGE PHOTOS  
IN THIS MORNING'S PRESS. BELIEVE THAT SYRIANS  
WERE PARTICULARLY PLEASED TO HAVE OCCASION TO  
WELCOME PROMINENT AMERICAN AT THIS TIME.  
PELLETREAU

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 13 NOV 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** SmithRJ  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Office:** ACTION NEA  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
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**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**TAGS:** OVIP, (BLANTON, RAY)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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